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**CERTIFIED MAIL**
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

August 30, 2001

Dr. John Browne, Director
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663, Mail Stop A100
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

Mr. Theodore Taylor, Project Manager
Los Alamos Area Office
Department of Energy
528 35th Street, Mail Stop A316
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

**SUBJECT: "CONTAINED-IN" DETERMINATION FOR ACID CANYON**
**LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY**
**EPA ID # NM0890010515**
**HWB-LANL-01-014**

Dear Dr. Browne and Mr. Taylor:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has reviewed the August 22, 2001 request (referenced by ER2001-0701) from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) for a "contained-in" determination for environmental media that will be excavated during the interim action (IA) for the South Fork of Acid Canyon (potential release site 1-002). A "contained-in" determination is being requested for environmental media, primarily sediment, which is contaminated with low concentrations of F-listed hazardous waste, specifically toluene and methyl-isobutyl ketone.

Based on the information LANL provided, NMED has determined that the excavated media which contain constituents at concentrations below health-based screening levels (toluene below 180 parts per million (ppm) and methyl-isobutyl ketone below 3600 ppm) do not need to be managed as F-listed hazardous waste. Any sediment with hazardous constituents in concentrations equal to or greater than the proposed health-based concentrations specified above shall be managed as F-listed hazardous waste, and in accordance with the requirements that apply

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to this sediment as a low-level radioactive waste. The "contained-in" determination is based on conservative, health-based soil concentrations (NMED Soil Screening Levels) for direct exposure to an industrial receptor using a reasonable maximum exposure scenario. An industrial worker scenario is appropriate for this determination because the environmental media to be excavated will be disposed of in a Department of Energy permitted low-level radioactive waste disposal facility.

This "contained-in" determination is limited to the contaminants specifically mentioned above and the activities conducted during the IA.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 428-2538.

Sincerely,

John Young
LANL Corrective Action Project Leader
Permits Management Program

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